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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6473

BILL NUMBER: SB 175

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 31, 2012

BILL AMENDED: Jan 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Absentee Ballot Applications.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Young R Michael

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Absentee Ballot Application Forms*- The bill requires the Indiana Election Commission (IEC) to modify the absentee ballot application form to request that a voter provide the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number or state that the voter does not have a Social Security number.

Failure to Provide Requested Information- The bill provides that a voter's failure to provide the requested information does not affect the voter's ability to receive an absentee ballot.

Study Committee Topics- The bill urges the Legislative Council to assign to a study committee during the 2012 legislative interim the topics of: (1) ballot security for an absentee ballot transmitted to and from a voter by mail; and (2) connection of the statewide voter registration list and files maintained by the Department of State Revenue (DOR).

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Absentee Ballot Application Forms*- Currently, both absentee ballot application forms (ABS-1 regular and ABS-2 mail-only) used by the Election Commission provide a box for the applicant to write in their Indiana driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number, either of which is suitable as the voter's VIN. However, the box is currently optional for the applicant to complete the form. A minor revision to both forms would have to be made in order to comply with the provisions of the bill. Given that the forms are readily available online, the Election Commission could make the changes to the forms with negligible additional expenditure.

(Revised) *Study Committee Topics*- The Legislative Council could assign the above topics to a summer interim study committee or a statutory committee during the 2012 interim. The committee would operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$9,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Failure to Provide Requested Information*- Circuit court clerks would be able to record social security numbers from absentee ballot applicants within existing resources. County election boards would not be able to deny an application for an absentee ballot as a result of this provision.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Commission; Legislative Council.

Local Agencies Affected: Circuit court clerk.

Information Sources:

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